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RESEARCH IN ENGLAND.

AN ESSAY

TO

AID THE STUDENT.

BY

J. HENRY LEA.

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In too large a proportion of our old American families the pedigree, while running with perfect clearness to our coast, and chronicling the arrival of the emigrant prepositor at a certain date, or even by a certain ship, loses itself in the waters of the Atlantic, and comes to an abrupt halt with not even a hint of the English ancestry of the founder of the line in this country. Few, I hope none, of our people are indifferent to their heritage of Anglo-Saxon blood, and their share in the glorious history of the English people, a history that is equally our own to the eventful year of 1776; but most of those who compile their family genealogies shrink before the task of grappling with the English records, or perhaps, having fallen at the outset into the hands of some of the, alas too frequent, unscrupulous adventurers who make a fat living by preying on the unwary, are deterred from further effort by the apparently enormous expense attendant on such investigation.

It is to help such earnest inquirers that I have been induced to submit the following brief hints, drawn from nearly twenty years' experience in English work, which I hope may prove of service to many of my compatriots in tracing their trans-Atlantic lineage.

It goes without saying that all possible information to be had on this side of the water should be obtained at the outset, and every effort made to locate the English home of the emigrant. When this can be done the rest is relatively easy; but, even when no clue can be obtained here, there is no reason for despair,—"*Nil tam difficile est, quin quærendo investigari possiet.*"*

In the following pages I shall endeavor to give a brief review of those English records from which the best results are to be hoped, and to which the attention of the searcher should be particularly directed.

Preëminent among these come the Probate Records, and, first in importance of them, the great Prerogative Court of the Archbishop of Canterbury, already known to the readers of the Register through the researches of Col. Chester, Mr. Waters, and others. This splendid collection of testamentary evidences embraces wills in every part of England and Wales, and dates from the year 1383, continuing in unbroken sequence to 1858, when this Court was dissolved and the

* Terrence.

present order of things instituted. The wide scope of its jurisdiction makes its search absolutely essential, and it is best to commence all work here, no matter what is seen later. Consultation of these wills, under certain necessary restrictions, is free to all literary inquirers, down to within a century of our own time, beyond which they are closed except on payment of fees. Applications for permits addressed to the Registrar General, at Somerset House, Strand, London, with proper credentials, will receive prompt and courteous attention; and at the same office permission may be obtained for search in all the minor and local Courts, of which hereafter.

Much of the former laborious work of searching the MS. Calendars, or indices, has now been superseded by the labors of various antiquaries and learned societies. From 1383 to 1604 the names of all the testators in the Prerogative Court of Canterbury have been printed by the British Record Society,* which has now in hand the period from 1605 to 1619. From 1620 to 1630 the series of abstracts now being edited by the writer will serve the double purpose of an index to testators and a cross reference to all names in the wills of the period; while from 1630 to 1640 the Probate Act Books now being issued by J. & G. F. Matthews, in London, carry on the index nearly to the period of the Civil War. From this time, recourse must be had to the MS. Calendars, and it should be borne in mind that many years *subsequent* to the Emigration should be seen, for possible references to kinsfolk in America. The less valuable Administrations in this Court date from 1383, although the recently discovered earlier years (before 1558) are not yet accessible to the public. The calendars to these have not been printed, and they must all be searched in the MS. Calendars; before 1631 they are kept in separate books, after that date in the same index with the wills. *It is not wise to neglect them.*

Second in importance comes the Exchequer and Prerogative Court of York, having jurisdiction in all the Northern counties. Dating from 1389, these records are nearly perfect, except for the period of the Commonwealth (1650–1660), when all wills in England were proved before the Judges at Westminster and are now enrolled in the Prerogative Court of Canterbury, which, it must be remembered, was the case with *all* of the local Courts. The indices of this Court are now in process of publication by the Yorkshire Archæological Society, and, except for brief gaps in the records, are complete (wills and administrations), 1389 to 1627, and 1636 to 1652.† The period 1627 to 1636 is to be covered by a forthcoming volume.

In both of these Prerogative Courts there occur "Sede Vacante," or Vacancy Wills, during the periods when the respective Sees, from death or other causes, have been vacated. In the Court at York these

* Index Lib., Vols. x, xi, xviii, xxv.

† See York Arch. Soc., Record Series, vols. iv, vi, xi, xiv, xix, xxii, xxiv, xxvi, xxviii, xxxii.

will be found among the records of the Dean and Chapter, but in the Prerogative Court of Canterbury they must be sought in the Wills at Lambeth Palace Library (1313 to 1644), and in the Vacancy Wills of the Dean and Chapter at Canterbury* (to 1486), dealing also with the local Consistories. Other Courts having a subordinate jurisdiction to the Prerogative Court of Canterbury are the Court of Delegates,† at Somerset House, dating from 1650, which was a Court of Appeal from the Provincial Courts and Royal Peculiars, and the Arches Court of Canterbury at Lambeth (1661), also a Court of Appeal.

A calendar of the wills at Lambeth has been printed in *The Genealogist*,‡ and, beside the Vacancy Wills, they contain many others of testators in all parts of the Diocese.

The jurisdiction of the two great Prerogative Courts is broadly divided by a line from the Wash to the Mersey, the Archbishopric of Canterbury covering all England and Wales south of that line, and the Archbishopric of York all to the north, but the wills of many testators in the Northern counties are to be found in the Canterbury Court, while the reverse of this is not the case at York.

Wills of Roman Catholics will be found in the Close Rolls in the Public Record office; and at Stonyhurst College, in Mitton, co. Lancaster, are wills most, but not all, of which are those of Jesuits. A list of these will be found in the Historical Manuscripts Commission Reports.§ In the Public Record Office also will be found many other wills in the Enrollments of Patents, Assignment Books, Warrant Books of Pell Office, Privy Seal, and Inquisitions Post Mortem, while still other classes of documents also contain wills and administrations, but no general lists are obtainable, and the labor of seeking them all out would be hopeless.‖

In the Muniment Room at Westminster are filed a large number of wills (1307–1674) of testators in all parts of the country. Some of these, but probably not all, may be found registered in various Courts.§§ The Earl of Ashburnham's Collection of Manuscripts contains three volumes of sixteenth and seventeeth century wills¶ (mostly original), and many others no doubt exist in other private collections, as well as in the great libraries.

If the county from which the emigrant came be known, or if the inquirer has had the good fortune to obtain such clues in the Prerogative Court as indicate the place of his origin, the next step will be to search the local Courts of that region *thoroughly*, as no search is

* See Hist. MSS. Rep. VIII, App. 332; ibid. Various Colls. I, p. 209 and Gen. vi, 48.

† The Processes in these cases are in the Public Record Office. List of Wills in Gen. N. S. xi, 165, 224, xii, 97.

‡ See Gen. v, 211, 324; vi, 23, 127, 217; vii, 204, 271; N. S. i, 80.

§ See Hist. MSS. Com. Rep. X, App. iv, p. 183.

‖ A partial list of these in Genealogist N. S. i, 266, ii, 59, 279, iii, 122, 185, 220—unfortunately discontinued.

§§ Hist. MSS. Com. Rep. IV, App. p. 197.

¶ Hist. MSS. Com. Rep. VIII, App. pt. iii, p. 29.

complete which does not exhaust these, the wills of testators in every Diocese being liable to be found in both.

At this point comes one of the most difficult steps to the beginner, as the many interlacing jurisdictions of Consistories, Archdeaconries, Prebends, and, well named, Peculiars, make a maze in which he may easily become bewildered. In the following table I have endeavored to show clearly just what Courts have jurisdiction in each county, where the records are to be found, and the date of the earliest *continuous* registration in such Court.* For those who desire more detail, I would refer to the two exhaustive Reports to the House of Commons in 1830 and 1845,† and to the admirable little handbook of Dr. Marshall's,‡ to which I am greatly indebted in this compilation.

County.	Courts.	Location.	Earliest Date.
Anglesea.	Consistory of Bangor.	Bangor.	1634
Bedford.	Archdeaconry of Bedford.	Northampton.	1496
	Registers of the Bishops of Lincoln. See note under Lincoln.	Exchequer Gateway, Lincoln.	1320
	Prebend of Biggleswade.	Lincoln. 1639 to Northampton.	1740 1712
	Peculiar of Leighton Buzzard.	Somerset House.	1736
	Archdeaconry of Northampton. Contains a few documents. See note under Northampton.	Northampton.	1510
	Consistory of Peterborough. Contains a few documents.	Peterborough.	1608
Berks.	Archdeaconry of Berks. Index to 1650 printed by British Record Society, vol. viii, 1893.	Somerset House.	1530
	Consistorial of Sarum.	Somerset House.	1550
	Dean of Sarum. (Has 7 parishes in Berks.)	Somerset House.	1537
	Peculiar of Dean and Canons of Windsor. (Has 6 parishes in Berks.)	Somerset House.	1668
	Prebend of Langford. (See also under Oxford.)	Somerset House.	1607
	Prebend of Farringdon.	Somerset House.	1730
Brecknock.	Archdeaconry of Brecon.	Hereford.	1625
Bristol.	Consistory of Bristol. All wills in this court between 1542 and 1572 have been lost. A few may be found in Consistory of Gloucester, *q. v.*	Bristol.	1572

* Where only a few scattered early wills occur (as in the Archdeaconry of Dorset), I have usually omitted them, placing the date at a point where it will be of real value.

† See the Rct. of Ecclesiastical Cts. Hou. of Com. Sessional Papers, 1830, No. 205, vol. xix, p. 47, and 1845, No. 249, vol. xxxvi, p 347, also Pub. Rec. Report, 1837. Dr. Marshall's Handbook of Anc. Cts. of Prob., pp. 10–11, and Mr. J. C. C. Smith's introduction to vol. x, Brit. Rec. Soc.

‡ Handbook to the Ancient Courts of Probate, by George W. Marshall, 2d ed., 1895

	Index to 1792 printed by British Record Society, vol. xvii, 1897.		
	Great Orphan Books. Index *ut supra*. Abstracts of 1st vol. printed by Bristol and Gloucester Archæological Society, edited by T. P. Wadley, 1886.	Council House.	1379 to 1674
	Consistorial Episcopal of Bath and Wells. (Parishes of St. Thomas and St. Mary Redcliffe, before 1542.)	Wells.	1528
BUCKS.	Archdeaconry of Bucks.	Somerset House.	1520
	Dean and Chapter of Lincoln.	Lincoln.	1271
	Registers of Bishops of Lincoln. See note under Lincoln.	Exchequer Gateway, Lincoln.	1320
	Archdeaconry of St. Albans. (Has 4 parishes in Bucks.)	Somerset House.	1415
	Peculiar of Bierton.	Somerset House.	1687
	Peculiar of Aylesbury.	Somerset House.	1674
	Peculiar of Bucks.	Somerset House.	1701
	Peculiar of Monks Risborough and Newington.	Somerset House.	1736
	Peculiar of Thame. (Parish of Towersey only.)	Somerset House.	1786
	Peculiar of Eton College.	Eton College.	....
CAMBRIDGE.	Consistory of Peterborough.	Peterborough.	1608
	Consistory of Ely. See Vacancy Wills in Dean and Chapter of Canterbury.	Peterborough.	1449
	Consistory of Archdeacon of Ely. (Includes Cambridge town.)	Peterborough.	1451
	Chancellor of University of Cambridge. See Harleian MSS., 7030, p. 307, and 7033, p. 200, in Brit. Mus.	Peterborough.	1501 to 1765
	Peculiar of Isleham and Freckenham.	Peterborough.	1525
	Peculiar of Kings College.	Kings College.	1451
	Peculiar of Thorney.	Peterborough.	1774
	Registers of Bishops of Ely. Calendars printed by A. Gibbons, 1891, in Ely Episcopal Registers, pp. 15, 193, 432. See also Harleian MS. 7043, pp. 153, 265, and Additional MS. 5861, p. 3, at British Museum.	Muniment Room, Ely.	1478
	Commissary of Bury St. Edmunds. See note under Suffolk.	Bury St. Edmunds.	1354
	Consistory of Norwich. (Has 12 parishes in Cambridge.)	Norwich.	1370
CARDIGAN.	Consistorial Episcopal of St. Davids.	Carmarthen.	1560
	Archdeaconry of Cardigan.	Carmarthen.	1746
CARMARTHEN.	Consistorial Episcopal of St. Davids. Index from 1600 only.	Carmarthen.	1560

	Archdeaconry of St. Davids.	Carmarthen.	1746
CARNARVON.	Consistory of Bangor.	Bangor.	1634
	Consistory of St. Asaph. (Has 2 parishes in Carnarvon.) See note under Denbigh.	St. Asaph.	1565
CHESHIRE.	Exchequer and Prerogative Court of York. (For Cheshire wills before 1521.)	York.	1389
	Enrollment Books List of vols. I and II in Lanc. and Ches. Rec. Soc., vol. II, p. xi.	Diocesan Registry, Chester.	1520
	Consistory of Lichfield. (A few Cheshire wills before 1521.)	Lichfield.	1516
	Consistory Court of Chester. Index to 1800 by Lancashire and Cheshire Record Society, vols. ii, iv, xv, xviii, xx, xxii, xxv, xxxvii, xliv, and xlv; and abstracts of wills by Chetham Society, vols. xxxiii, li, liv, N. S. iii,* xxvii and xxxviii. See abstracts in Harl. MS. 2067 in Brit. Mus. and Dodsworth MS., vol. xx, Bodleian Lib., Oxford.	Chester.	1545
	Rural Deans (12). Index *ut supra*.	Chester.	1660
CORNWALL.	Consistorial Archidiaconal of Cornwall. Includes Peculiars of St. Levan and St. Senan.	Bodmin.	1569
	Royal Peculiar of St. Buryan.	Bodmin.	1603
	Consistorial of Exeter. (Has 23 parishes in Cornwall.) See note under Devon.	Exeter.	1557
	Dean and Chapter of Exeter. (Has 6 parishes in Cornwall.)	Exeter.	1547
CUMBERLAND.	Consistory of Carlisle.	Carlisle.	1564
	Registers of Bishops of Carlisle. List in Hist. MSS. Com. Rep. IX, App. 196, and abstracts 1353 to 1386, printed by R. S. Ferguson in Cumberland and Westmoreland Antiquarian and Archæological Society, 1893.	Cathedral Muniment Room.	1353
	Consistory of Durham. (Has Alston parish only.)	Durham.	1540
	Deanery of Coneland.	Somerset House.	....
	Archdeaconry of Richmond. (Has some Cumberland wills.)	Somerset House.	1457
DENBIGH.	Consistory of St. Asaph. Index 1565 to 1583 printed by Powis Land Club, vol. xvi, p. 299.	St. Asaph.	1565
	Consistory of Bangor. (Has 19 Denbigh parishes.)	Bangor.	1634

* This volume contains abstracts of 200 wills now missing from Chester Cons. Ct., see pt. ii, p. 198.

	Consistory of Chester.	Chester.	1545
	Consistory of Lichfield. See note under Stafford.	Lichfield.	1516
DERBY.	Consistory of Lichfield. See note under Stafford.	Lichfield.	1516
	Consistory of Worcester. For wills before 1542.	Worcester.	1451
	Deanery of Hartington.	Lichfield.	1679
	Peculiar of Peak Forest.	Lichfield.	1647
	Prebend of Sawley.	Lichfield.	1712
	Peculiar of Dale Abbey.	Derby.	1753
DEVON.	Episcopal Principal Registry.	Exeter.	1559
	Consistorial Court of Exeter. Index to 1790 by British Record Society in progress.	Exeter.	1557
	Dean and Chapter of Exeter. Some wills of this Court are still in Chapter Library.*	Exeter.	1547
	Archdeaconry of Barum. (*Barnstable*).	Exeter.	1553
	Archdeaconry of Exeter. Index to 1799 by British Record Society in progress.	Exeter.	1547
	Archdeaconry of Totnes. (Old Calendars from 1513.)	Exeter.	1574
	Dean of Exeter.	Exeter.	1632
	Vicars Choral. (Parish of Woodbury only.)	Exeter.	1633
	Prebend of Uffculm (Diocese of Sarum).	Somerset House.	1623
	Registers of Bishops of Exeter. Abstracts printed to 1415 of "Bronescombe" 1889, and "Stafford" 1886, by F. C. H. Randolph.	Diocesan Registry.	1257
	King's Court or Customary Court of the City of Exeter. Contains wills relating to tenements in City of Exeter. See abstracts printed by Samuel Izacke, 1736; also list in Antiquities of Exeter by same, 1681, p. 21, *et seq.*	Guildhall.	1281

See selected abstracts in Devonshire Wills by C. Worthy, 1896, and Extracts from Wills of Parishes of Shute and Colyton, by S. A. Smith, privately printed.

DORSET.	Archdeaconry of Dorset. (A few scattering wills 1568.) Index printed by British Record Society vol. xxii, 1900, of all wills at Blandford, to 1792.	Blandford.	1681
	Consistory of Bristol, Dorset Division.	Blandford.	1681
	Peculiar of Sturminster Marshall.	Blandford.	1641
	Peculiar of Corfe Castle. See note in Brit. Rec. Soc. xxii, p. ix of introduction.	Blandford.	1577

* *Ex teste* W. E. Mugford, recently clerk to Bishop's Registrar.

	Peculiar of Great Canford and Poole.	Blandford.	1650
	Royal Peculiar of Milton Abbas.	Blandford.	1694
	Peculiar of Wimborne Minster.	Blandford.	1511
	Dean of Sarum. (Has 27 parishes in Dorset.)	Somerset House.	1537
	Dean and Chapter of Sarum. (Has parish of Stourpain only.)	Somerset House.	1606
	Prebend of Chardstock and Wambrook.	Somerset House.	1639
	Prebend of Forthington and Writhlington.	Somerset House.	1660
	Prebend of Yetminster and Grimstone.	Somerset House.	1654
	Prebend of Lyme Regis and Halstock.	Somerset House.	1664
	Royal Peculiar of Gillingham.	Somerset House.	1660
	Prebend of Netherbury.	Somerset House.	1670
	Prebend of Preston and Sutton Pointz.	Somerset House.	1661

Abstracts of all Administrations for Dorset in Prerogative Court of Canterbury (1558 to 1725) have been printed by G. S. Fry in Somerset and Dorset Notes and Queries, vol. II, 1891, p. 14, *et seq.*

DURHAM.	Consistory of Durham.	Durham.	1540
	Registers of Dean and Chapter. See Surtees Society, vols. ii, and xxxviii, for selections of wills 1311 to 1599.	Durham.	1311
ESSEX.	Archdeaconry of Essex.	Somerset House.	1400
	Commissary of Essex and Herts.	Somerset House.	1514
	Commissary of London. (Has 8 parishes in Essex.)	Somerset House.	1374
	Consistory of London.	Somerset House.	1361
	Deanery of Bocking. (Has 6 parishes in Essex.)	Somerset House.	1627
	Archdeaconry of Colchester.	Somerset House.	1500
	Archdeaconry of Middlesex, Essex and Herts. (Has 37 parishes in Essex.)	Somerset House.	1564
	Dean and Chapter of St. Paul. (Has 5 parishes in Essex.)	Somerset House.	1537
	Royal Peculiar Dean and Chapter of Westminster. (Has parish of St. Mary, Maldon, only.)	Somerset House.	1504
	Peculiar of Good Easter.	Somerset House.	1613
	Peculiar of Hornchurch and Havering-atte-Bower. (Only 1 will remains.)	New College, Oxford.	....
	Peculiar of Writtle with Roxwell.	Somerset House.	1637
	Commissary of the Sokens. (Has 3 parishes in Essex.)	Ipswich.	1571
	Archdeaconry of Suffolk. (Has a few Essex wills.) See note under Suffolk.	Ipswich.	1444

A few Essex wills, 1360 to 1610, are in the muniments of the family of Nevill of Holt. See note under Leicester.

FLINT.	Consistory of St. Asaph. See note under Denbigh.	St. Asaph.	1565
	Consistory of Chester. See note under Chester.	Chester.	1545
	Consistory of Lichfield. See note under Stafford.	Lichfield.	1516
	Peculiar of Hawarden.	St. Asaph.	1558
GLAMORGAN.	Consistorial of Llandaff.	Llandaff.	1590
	Consistorial Episcopal of St. Davids. (Has 23 parishes in Glam.)	Carmarthen.	1560
GLOUCESTER.	Consistory of Gloucester. A few wills (92) exist between 1509 and 1541. Index printed by British Record Society 1541 to 1650, vol. xii, 1895; 1660 to 1799 in progress.	Gloucester.	1541
	Consistory of Worcester. (Has Gloucester wills before 1541.) See note under Worcester.	Worcester.	1451
	Gloucester Municipal Records. Have a few wills. See Hist. MSS. Com. Rep. XII, App. ix, p. 415.	Corn Exchange, Gloucester.	1454
	Peculiar of Bibury.	Somerset House.	1590
		Gloucester.	1665
	Peculiar of Bishops Cleeve.	Gloucester.	1635
	Consistory of Bristol. (Has 16 parishes in Gloucestershire.)	Bristol.	1572
	Great Orphan Books. (Have a few Gloucester wills.) See note under Bristol.	Council House, Bristol.	1379
HAMPSHIRE.	Consistory of Winchester.* See also Vacancy Wills in Dean and Chapter of Canterbury.	Winchester.	1502
	Archdeaconry of Winchester.	Winchester.	1537
	Peculiar of Alverstoke.	Winchester.	1612
	Donative Court of No. Baddesley.	Winchester.	1692
	Peculiar of Bishops Waltham.	Winchester.	1625
	Peculiar of Calbourne.	Winchester.	1612
	Peculiar of Fawley with Exbury.	Winchester.	....
	Peculiar of Ringwood with Harbridge.	Winchester.	1691
	Peculiar of East Woodhay with Askmansworth.	Winchester.	1612
	Peculiar of Alresford with Medstead and New Alresford.	Winchester.	....
	Peculiar of Cheriton with Kilmarton and Tichbourne.	Winchester.	1613

* This Court *probably* contains also the Peculiars of the Deans of Andover, Basingstoke, Droxford, Fordingbridge, Somborne, Southampton, Isle of Wight and Winchester, which were known to exist in 1828, but now indistinguishable from the Consistory records.

	Liber Niger, or Black Book. See Hist. MSS. Com. Rep. XI, App. pt. ii, pp. 8-14.	Southampton.	1383 to 1570
	Great Book of Andover. See Archives of Andover, by R. H. Clutterbuck, 1891.	Andover.	1569
HEREFORD.	Consistorial of Hereford. (Calendars to letter E only.)	Hereford.	1517
	Consistorial of the Dean.	Hereford.	1558
	Archdeaconry of Brecon.	Hereford.	1625
	Peculiar of Upper Bullinghope.	Hereford.	1608
	Peculiar of Little Hereford with Ashford Carbonell.	Hereford.	1662
	Peculiar of Moreton Magna.	Hereford.	1668
	Corporation of Hereford. (A few wills abstracts in Hist. MSS. Com. Rep. XIII, App. pt. iv, pp. 302-343.)	Town Hall.	1378
	Consistorial Episcopal of St. Davids. Said to have some Hereford wills, *quere?*	Carmarthen.	1560
HERTS.	Commissary of Essex and Herts. (Has 7 parishes in Herts.)	Somerset House.	1514
	Archdeaconry of St. Albans. See abstracts by W. Brigg, in Herts. Genealogist and Antiquary, i, 44, *et seq.*	Somerset House.	1415
	Consistory of Peterborough. (Before 1615 only.)	Peterborough.	1608
	Peculiar of Dean and Chapter of St. Pauls. (Has 4 parishes in Herts.)	Somerset House.	1537
	Archdeaconry of Huntingdon, Hitchin Division. See abstracts of Herts. wills, Regs. III and IV, 1579-1614, printed by W. Brigg, in Herts. Genealogist and Antiquary, II, 29, *et seq.* to III, 357.	Somerset House.	1557
	Archdeaconry of Middlesex, Essex and Herts. (Has 25 parishes in Herts.) See abstracts printed by W. Brigg in Herts. Genealogist and Antiquary, i, 33, *et seq.*	Somerset House.	1564
	Consistory of London. See abstracts, as above, ii, 9, *et seq.*	Somerset House.	1361
	Registers of Bishops of Lincoln.	Exchequer Gateway, Lincoln.	1320
HUNTS.	Archdeaconry of Huntingdon.	Peterborough.	1479
	Archdeaconry of Huntingdon. Hitchin Division.	Somerset House.	1557
	Peculiar of Brampton.	Peterborough.	1546
	Prebend of Buckden.	Peterborough.	1661
	Peculiar of Leighton Bromswold.	Peterborough.	1738
	Prebend of Long Stow.	Peterborough.	1667

KENT.	Consistory of Canterbury. *This court must not be confounded with the Prerogative Court of Canterbury.*	Canterbury.	1362
	Archdeaconry of Canterbury.	Canterbury.	1449
	Commissary of Dean and Chapter of Canterbury. See List in Hist. MSS. Com. Rep. VIII, App. 332; IX, App. 109; *ibid*, Various Coll. I, p. 209, and Gen. vi, 48.	Canterbury.	1348 to 1503
	Peculiar of Cliffe.	Somerset House.	1671
	Consistory and Archdeaconry of Rochester.	Somerset House.	1440
	Peculiar of Deanery of Shoreham. (See Arches of London, Shoreham and Croyden.) (Has 31 parishes in Kent.)	Somerset House.	1602

See index of Kent wills in Prerogative Court of Canterbury, 1383 to 1559, by Leland L. Duncan, 1890, and Administrations, 1559–1603, by the same, 1888.

LANCASTER.	Consistory of Commissary of Archdeaconry of Richmond. Printed index to 1792 in Record Society of Lancashire and Cheshire, vols. x, xiii, xxiii.*	Somerset House.	1457
	Consistory of Chester. (Printed index to 1800, see note under Chester.) The Chetham Society has printed three volumes of abstracts of Lancashire and Cheshire wills, see note under Cheshire.	Chester.	1545
	Manor Court of Halton. Index printed in Lancashire and Cheshire Record Society, vol. xxiii.	Lancaster.	1615
	Dean and Chapter of York. (Has 3 parishes in Lanc.)	York.	1321
	Manor Court of Nether Kellet. See Return of Ecclesiastical Courts, 1830, p. 131.	[*Unknown*]	....
	Manor Court of Slyne with Hest. (*Ut supra*, p. 132.)	[*Unknown*]	....
	Manor Court of Skerton.	[*Unknown*]	1651 to 1691
	Stonyhurst College. A few (5) 17th Cent. wills. See list and abstracts in Hist. MSS. Com. Rep. X, App. iv., p. 183.	Mitton.	1700
LEICESTER.	Commissary of Bishop of Lincoln and Archdeaconry of Leicester.	Leicester.	1495

* Most (about 20,000) of the Deanery of Amounderness Wills in this Archdeaconry are lost, but abstracts of about 3,000 of them, made in 1680, are preserved in Additional MS. 32,115, at British Museum. See also the Towneley Collection at Burneley, MS. xxxiii. See Hist. MSS. Com. Rep. IV, App. p. 409. After 1748 these records may be found at Lancaster.

Index of Wills and Ads. in all Leicester Courts (Archdeaconry to 1649, and Peculiars to 1801), printed by Brit. Rec. Soc., vol. xxvii, 1902.		
Prebend of St. Margaret.	Leicester.	1543
Registers of Bishops of Lincoln. (See note under Lincoln.)	Exchequer Gateway, Lincoln.	1320
Manor Court of Evington.	Leicester.	1581
Manor Court of Groby.	Leicester.	1580
Manor Court of Rothley.	Leicester.	1575
Peculiar and Manor Court of Merevale.	Lichfield.	1770
Court of Old Dalby.	[*Unknown*]	....

A few wills of Leicester and other testators (1360–1610) are in the muniment chests of the family of Neville of Holt, now in possession of F. Peake, Esq. See Hist. MSS. Com. Rep. II, App. p. 94.

LINCOLN.	Registers of Bishops of Lincoln. An index of probates from 1280. See Hist. MSS. Com. Rep. XII, pt. ix, p. 573, and A. Gibbons' Early Lincoln wills. Index printed by A. Gibbons (1280–1547), 1887, and abstracts *ibid*, 1888. See also list of wills 1560–1640 in *Miscellanea Genealogica et Heraldica* N. S., iii, 59, and Lincolnshire wills 1500–1617, by A. R. Maddison, 2 vols., 1888–91.	Exchequer Gateway, Lincoln.	1320
	Consistory of Lincoln, Commissary of Lincoln, and Archdeaconry of Lincoln. (*Three united Courts.*) Printed index by British Record Society, 1320 to 1600, vol. xxviii, 1902, of all Lincoln Courts.	Lincoln.	1506
	Commissary of the Bishop and Court of Archdeacon of Stow.	Lincoln.	1530
	Dean and Chapter of Lincoln. The earlier wills in this Court (1271–1550) have been retained in the Muniment Room of the Dean and Chapter. Index of wills and admons., A. to R. (1634–1780) in this Court, in Notes on Visit. of Lincoln, 1634, by A. Gibbons, 1898, *et seq.*, in progress. See also Hist. MSS. Com. Rep. XII. pt. ix, p. 573.	Lincoln.	1271
	Manor Court of Kirkstead.	[*Unknown*]	1752
	Manor Court of Tattershall.	[*Unknown*]	....
	Prebend of Bishops Norton.	Lincoln.	1613
	Prebend of Caistor. Index printed in Northern Genealogist, vol. i, p. 42, 1895.	Lincoln.	1636
	Prebend of Corringham.	Lincoln.	1632

	Prebend of Heydour with Walton.	Lincoln.	1669
	Peculiar of Kirton in Lindsey.	Lincoln.	1535
	Prebend of Louth.	Lincoln.	1659
	A few earlier wills (1612–1659) in Dean and Chapter.		
	Index printed in Northern Genealogist, vol. i, pp. 80, 162 (1895); II, 172 (1896).		
	Prebend of New Sleaford.	Lincoln.	1610
	Some wills from this Court are in the Muniment Room of Dean and Chapter of Lincoln.		
	Prebend of Stow-in-Lindsey.	Lincoln.	1610
	Corporation of Lincoln.	Town Clerk's Office.	1492
	(For list of wills and some abstracts see Hist. MSS. Com. Rep. XIV, App. pt. viii, pp. 23–4.)		
	Lincoln City Wills.	Cathedral Library.	14th Cent.
	See A. Gibbons' Early Lincoln Wills, in preface, for discovery of these.		
	Briefs of Lincolnshire wills in P. C. C. (1558 to 1581), printed in Northern Genealogist, i, 211; ii, 23, 59, 131, 195; iii, 132; iv, 22; v, 109; vi, 23.		
London.	Prerogative Court of Canterbury.	Somerset House.	1383
	Prerogative Court for all England and Wales, and for persons dying beyond seas.		
	Vacancy Wills in P. C. C. will be found in Dean and Chapter of Canterbury (See note under Kent).		
	Index 1383–1604, printed by Brit. Rec. Soc., vols. x, xi, xviii, xxv; 1605–19, in progress.		
	Abstracts of wills, Reg. Soame, 1620, by J. H. Lea, printed 1904; 1621 to 1630, in progress.		
	Probate Act Books, 1630–1634, by J. and G. F. Mathews, London, 1902; 1635–1640, in progress.		
	Abstracts of wills, Reg. Wootton, 1658, vol. I, by Wm. Brigg, 1894; other vols. in progress.		
	Testamenta Vetusta, by N. H. Nicolas, London, 1826, 2 vols.*		
	The Fifty Earliest English Wills in Court of Probate, London, 1387–1439, by F. J. Furnival, in Early Eng. Text. Soc., 1882.		
	Wills from Doctors' Commons, 1495–1695, in Camden Soc., 1863, vol. lxxxiii, by J. G. Nichols.*		
	Gleanings from English Records, etc., by J. A. Emmerton and H. F. Waters, in Essex Inst., Hist. Coll., vol. xvii, pt. i., 1880.*		

* These abstracts are *selections only*.

Genealogical Gleanings in England, by H. F. Waters, in N. E. Hist. Gen. Register, vol. xxxvii, p. 233 (1883), to vol. liii, p. 24 (1899), reprinted with index, 1901, in 2 vols.*

Abstracts of English Wills, by L. Withington, in N. E. Hist. Gen. Register, vol. li, p. 297 (1897), to vol. liv, p. 348 (1900).*

Genealogical Gleanings Among the English Archives, by J. H. Lea, in N. E. Hist. Gen. Register, vol. liv, p. 188, 1900, *et seq.*, in progress.*

Indices or abstracts of wills for the different counties from the P. C. C. will be found under the county in this list.

Court of Delegates. — Somerset House. 1650

A Court of Appeal from the Provincial Courts of Archbishops of Cant. and York, their Peculiars, and the Royal Peculiars. The Proceedings in these cases are in the Public Record Office. See list of wills in Genealogist N. S., xi, 165, 224; xii, 97.

Arches Court of Canterbury. — Lambeth Palace. 1661

Also a Court of Appeal from all Episcopal Courts and Peculiars in the Province, but not from Royal Peculiars or Peculiars of of the Archbishop.

Archbishops Peculiar. — Lambeth Palace Library. 1312 to 1644

Contains many wills of Ecclesiastics, great Nobles and the Royal Family. See list in Genealogist, v, 211, 324; vi, 23, 127, 217; vii, 204, 271; N. S., i, 80.

Consistory Court of London. — Somerset House. 1361

Some vols. of these registers are still at Doctors' Commons.

Commissary of London. — Somerset House. 1374

Archdeaconry of London. — Somerset House. 1393

(An old index from 1368.)

Dean and Chapter of St. Pauls. — Somerset House. 1537

In the Muniment Room of St. Pauls are five boxes of wills dating from 1226 to 1679, which seem never to have been surrendered to the Registrar at Somerset House. See list of these in Hist. MSS. Com. Rep. IX, App. pp. 45–48.

Peculiar of Deaneries of the Arches Court of London, Shoreham and Croydon. — Somerset House. 1602

Archdeaconry of Middlesex, Essex and Herts. — Somerset House. 1564

(Has several parishes in Middx. division of London.)

* These abstracts are *selections only*.

	Royal Peculiar of Dean and Chapter of Westminster. Earlier wills (1310) exist in Muniments of Westminster Abbey. See List in Hist. MSS. Com. Rep. IV, p. 197.	Somerset House.	1504
	Royal Peculiar of St. Katherine.	Somerset House.	1729
	Court of Husting. Abstracts of these wills have been printed in two vols. by the municipality, 1889–1890, but they are not absolutely perfect, and originals should be seen in all important cases.	Guild Hall.	1258 to 1693
MERIONETH.	Consistory of St. Asaph.	St. Asaph.	1565
	Consistory of Bangor.	Bangor.	1634
MIDDLESEX.	Archdeaconry of Middlesex, Essex and Herts. (Has 29 parishes in Middx.)	Somerset House.	1564
	Dean and Chapter of St. Pauls.	Somerset House.	1537
	Consistory of London.	Somerset House.	1361
	Commissary of London. (Has 43 parishes in Middlesex.)	Somerset House.	1374
	Royal Peculiar of Dean and Chapter of Westminster.	Somerset House.	1504
	Peculiar of Croydon. (See Court of the Arches of London, etc.)	Somerset House.	1602
MONMOUTH.	Consistorial of Llandaff.	Llandaff.	1590
	Consistorial of Hereford.	Hereford.	1517
	Archdeaconry of Brecon. (Has 2 parishes in Monmouth.)	Hereford.	1625
MONTGOMERY.	Consistory of Bangor.	Bangor.	1634
	Consistory of St. Asaph. (See note under Denbigh.)	St. Asaph.	1565
	Consistorial of Hereford.	Hereford.	1517
	Archdeaconry of Brecon. (Has 2 parishes in Montgomery.)	Hereford.	1625
NORFOLK.	Consistory of Norwich. Includes Peculiar of Thorpe next Norwich. See Early Norfolk wills (1370–1383) in Norf. Antiquarian Miscellany, by W. Rye, i, 345. List of Foreigners' wills in Norwich Courts in Huguenot Soc., i, pt. ii, 194. See also D'Ewes Coll. in Brit. Mus., Harl. MS 10.	Norwich.	1370
	Archdeaconry of Norfolk.	Norwich.	1459
	Archdeaconry of Norwich. This Court includes that of the Commissary of the Bishop and the Official of the Archdeacon within the Archdeaconry, and also the Peculiars of Castle Rising and Great Cressingham.	Norwich.	1469

	Dean and Chapter of Norwich.	Norwich.	1500
	Kings Lynn Red Book. See Hist. MSS. Com. Rep. XI, App. pt. iii, pp. 152–231.	Kings Lynn, Town Hall.	1276
	Kings Lynn Rolls of Wills. See list and abstracts in the Hist. MSS. Com. Rep. XI, App. pt. iii, pp. 211, 234.	Kings Lynn, Town Hall.	1385
	Borough of Great Yarmouth Rolls. Filed wills and deeds touching tenements in Yarmouth.	Yarmouth, Town Hall.	1280
NORTHAMPTON.	Consistory of Peterborough.	Peterborough.	1608
	Archdeaconry of Northampton. See printed index of wills to 1652, British Record Society, vol. i, 1888. The administrations in this Court are in Act Books and *not indexed.*	Northampton.	1510
	Prebend of Nassington.	Peterborough.	1747
	Peculiar of Banbury. Has Parish of Kings Sutton only, in Northampton.	Somerset House.	1736
	Halmote of Higham Ferrers. See Hist. MSS. Com. Rep. XII, App. pt. ix, pp. 530, for partial list.	Town Hall.	1228
	Peculiar of Duddington.	Lincoln.	1740
	Prebend of Gretton.	Lincoln.	1684
	Consistory of Lincoln. (See note under Lincoln.)	Lincoln.	1507
	Registers of Bishops of Lincoln. (See note under Lincoln.)	Exchequer Gateway, Lincoln.	1320
NORTHUMBERLAND.	Consistory of Durham.	Durham.	1540
	Dean and Chapter of Durham. (See note under Durham.)	Durham.	1311
	Peculiar of Hexamshire and Ripon.	York.	1553
	Prebend of Tockerington.	York.	....
NOTTINGHAM.	Exchequer and Prerogative Court of York. (Most of the Notts. wills are to be found in the Exchequer Court of York.)	York.	1389
	Dean and Chapter of York. (Has 6 parishes in Notts.)	York.	1321
	Peculiar of Chapter of Collegiate Church of Southwell. See Camden Soc., N. S. vol. xlviii, p. 96, 1891, for wills, 1472 to 1541.	Southwell. Nottingham.	1472 1558
	Manor Court of Mansfield.	Nottingham.	1640
	Manor of Gringley-on-the-Hill, or Bawtry Hill. From 1658 to 1739 wills are in possession of Cartwright and Walker, of Bawtry. Some earlier rolls are in the Society of Antiquaries at London.	Bawtry. Nottingham.	1658 1739

	Peculiar of Kinoulton.	Nottingham.	1730
	Prebend of Apesthrope.	York.	1557
	Prebend of Bole.	York.	1627
	Peculiar of Edwinstown. Index printed in Northern Genealogist, I, 20.	York.	1534
	Register of Chapter Acts of Southwell Cathedral. See Hist. MSS. Com. Rep. XII, App. pt. ix, p. 540-44, for list of wills to 1547.	Southwell Minster Library.	1470 to 1670
OXFORD.	Consistory of Oxford.	Somerset House.	1544
	Archdeaconry of Oxford.	Somerset House.	1543
	Peculiar of Monks Risborough and Newington. (Has 2 parishes in Oxford.)	Somerset House.	1736
	Peculiar of Banbury.	Somerset House.	1736
	Peculiar of Dorchester. (Has 10 parishes in Oxford.)	Somerset House.	1586
	Peculiar of Thame.	Somerset House.	1736
	Manor Court of Sibford. (Has parish of Swalcliff only.)	Somerset House.	1732
	Peculiar of Langford.	Somerset House.	1607
	Chancellors Court of Oxford University. Index printed by John Griffith, 1862.	Oxford University.	1434
	Registers of Bishops of Lincoln. See note under Lincoln.	Exchequer Gateway, Lincoln.	1320
	Consistory of Lincoln. (See note under Lincoln.)	Lincoln.	1507
PEMBROKE.	Consistorial Episcopal of St. Davids.	Carmarthen.	1560
RADNOR.	Consistorial Episcopal of St. Davids.	Carmarthen.	1560
	Archdeaconry of Brecon.	Hereford.	1625
RUTLAND.	Consistorial Court of Peterborough.	Peterborough.	1608
	Archdeaconry of Northampton and Deanery of Rutland. See index with Archdeaconry of Northampton, in British Record Society, vol. i, 1888.	Northampton.	1510 to 1590
	Peculiar of Empingham.	Lincoln. 1669 to Peterborough.	1744 1748
	Registry of Bishop and Dean and Chapter of Lincoln.	Lincoln.	1534
	Prebend of Ketton.	Leicester.	1574
	Prebend of Liddington.	Leicester.	1669
	Prebend of Nassington.	Lincoln. Peterborough.	1660 ....
	Registers of Bishops of Lincoln. See note under Lincoln.	Exchequer Gateway, Lincoln.	1320

	Consistory of Lincoln, etc., before 1541. See note under Lincoln.	Lincoln.	1507
SALOP.	Consistory of Lichfield. See note under Stafford.	Lichfield.	1516
	Royal Peculiar of Bridgenorth.	Shrewsbury.	1635
	Peculiar of Buildwas Abbey.	Shrewsbury.	1799
	Peculiar of Wombridge.	Shrewsbury.	1786
	Royal Peculiar of Shrewsbury St. Mary.	Shrewsbury.	1661
	Prebend of Prees or Pipe Manor. See also under Stafford.	Shrewsbury.	1698
	Manor Court of Longdon-upon-Tern.	Shrewsbury.	1776
	Manor Court of Tyrley.	Shrewsbury.	1684
	Manor Courts of Ellesmere, Colemere, Hampton and Lineal.	Shrewsbury.	1658
	Consistory of Hereford.	Hereford.	1517
	Consistory of St. Asaph. See note under Denbigh.	St. Asaph.	1565
	Palmers' Guild of Ludlow. Contains only 34 wills in all.	Ludlow, Town Hall.	1304 to 1499
	Corporation of Shrewsbury. A few wills. See Hist. MSS. Com. Rep. XV, App. pt. x, p. 11.	Shrewsbury, Town Hall.	1336
	Consistory of Worcester. See note under Worcester.	Worcester.	1451
	Peculiar of Little Hereford and Ashford Carbonell. (Parish of Ashford only.)	Hereford.	1662
SOMERSET.	Consistory of Bath and Wells. In Museum of Somerset Arch. Soc., at Taunton, is a small vol. of early wills belonging to this Court. See also Abstracts of Wells Wills, 1528-1536, by W. F. Weaver, 1890.	Wells.	1528
	Archdeaconry of Taunton. The early wills are registered, but no index exists before 1593.	Taunton.	1538
	Consistory of Bristol. (Has 1 parish, Abbots Leigh, in Somerset.)	Bristol.	1572
	Consistorial Archidiaconal of Wells.	Wells.	1660
	Consistorial Decanal Court.	Wells.	1660
	Dean and Chapter of Wells.	Wells.	1660
	Peculiar of Sub-Dean.	Wells.	1627
	Peculiar of Chancellor.	Wells.	1655
	Peculiar of Precentor.	Wells.	1660
	Peculiar of Banwell.	Wells.	1674
	Prebend of Ashill.	Wells.	1662
	Prebend of Buckland Dinham.	Wells.	1637

Prebend of Compton Bishop.	Wells.	1647
Prebend of Compton Dundon.	Wells.	1678
Prebend of Cudworth.	Wells.	1626
Prebend of East Harptree.	Wells.	1657
Prebend of Easton-in-Gordano.	Wells.	1660
Prebend of Hazlebere.	Wells.	1676
Prebend of Henstridge.	Wells.	1677
Prebend of Ilton.	Wells.	1678
Prebend of Litton.	Wells.	1661
Prebend of St. Decumans.	Wells.	1636
Prebend of Timberscombe.	Wells.	1689
Prebend of Watton.	Wells.	1662
Prebend of West Lydford.	Wells.	1669
Prebend of West Lydiard.	Wells.	1669
Prebend of Whitelackington.	Wells.	1665
Prebend of Whitham Friary.	Wells.	1669
Prebend of Wyvelscombe.	Wells.	1660
Prebend of Yatton.	Wells.	1662
Peculiar of Chancellor, Kingsbury Episcopi.	Wells.	1688
Royal Peculiar of Ilminster.	Taunton.	1690
Great Orphan Books. (Have a few Somerset wills.)	Bristol.	1379
Prebend of Forthington and Writhlington.	Somerset House.	1660

Abstracts of Somersetshire Wills by Rev. F. Brown, printed in 6 vols., by F. A. Crisp, 1887–90, contain wills from the P. C. C., Consistory of Wells and Archdeaconry of Taunton.

STAFFORD.

Consistory of Lichfield and Coventry. Index to 1652, ed. by W. P. W. Phillimore, printed by Brit. Rec. Soc., vol. vii, 1892. This index is very defective. A good MS. index is now in the Lichfield office.	Lichfield.	1516
Dean of Lichfield.	Lichfield.	1570
Dean and Chapter of Lichfield. See Hist. MSS. Com. Rep. XIV, App. pt. vii, p. 205, and J. C. Cox's Catalogue of Muniments of Dean and Chapter of Lichfield, 1881–1886.	Lichfield.	1510
	Muniments of Dean and Chapter.	1461
Consistory of Worcester. (Has 2 parishes only in Stafford.)	Worcester.	1452
Prebend of High Offley and Flixton.	Lichfield.	1706
Prebend of Alrewas and Weeford.	Lichfield.	1675
Manor Court of Burton-on-Trent.	Lichfield.	1678
Prebend of Colwich.	Lichfield.	1684
Prebend of Eccleshall.	Lichfield.	1658

	Peculiar and Manor Court of Gnosall.	Lichfield.	1645
	Prebend of Handsacre and Armitage.	Lichfield.	1679
	Prebend of Longdon.	Lichfield.	1711
	Peculiar of Penkridge.	Lichfield.	1646
	Prebend of Prees or Pipe Manor. See also under Salop.	Lichfield.	1698
	Royal Peculiar of Tettenhall.	Lichfield.	1662
	Royal Peculiar of Wolverhampton.	Lichfield.	1632
	Prebend of Whittington and Baswick.	Lichfield.	1674
	Peculiar of Sedgeley.	Himley.*	....
SUFFOLK.	Consistory of Norwich. See note under Norfolk.	Norwich.	1370
	Archdeaconry of Sudbury and Commissary of Bury St. Edmunds. Selections of wills from this Court, 1370–1649, have been printed by Camden Soc., vol. xlix.	Bury St. Edmunds.	1354
	Archdeaconry of Suffolk. An index, 1444–1600, printed by F. A. Crisp, 1895, and in East Anglian, N. S. i. 340, *et seq.*, in progress. There are *many unindexed wills* in this Court.	Ipswich.	1444
	Peculiar of Isleham and Freckenham. (Parish of Freckenham only.)	Peterborough.	1525
	Consistory of Peterborough. (Has 1 Suffolk parish.)	Peterborough.	1608
	Deanery of Bocking. (Has 3 parishes in Suffolk.)	Somerset House.	1627
SURREY.	Prerogative Court of Canterbury. Many Surrey wills are in this Court.	Somerset Honse.	1383
	Archdeaconry of Surrey.	Somerset House.	1590
	Commissary of Surrey.	Somerset House.	1662
	Deanery of Croydon. See Court of Arches, London.	Somerset House.	1602
	Consistory of Winchester.	Winchester.	1502
SUSSEX.	Consistory of Chichester and Archdeaconry of Chichester. For West Sussex.	Chichester.	1518
	Peculiar of Dean of Chichester.	Chichester.	1553
	Consistory of Lewes and Archdeaconry of Lewes. For East Sussex. Index to 1650, by H. Hall, printed by Brit. Rec. Soc., vol. xxiv, 1901.	Lewes.	1541
	Peculiar of Battel.	Lewes.	1521

*At the house of Lord Dudley, *ex teste* A. Gibbons.

	Peculiar of Pagham and Tarring Deanery.	Chichester.	1677
	Peculiar of Southmalling.	Lewes.	1588
	Notes from Sussex Wills in P. C. C. printed in Suss. Arch. Colls., vol. xxviii, page 180.		
WARWICK.	Consistory of Lichfield. See note under Stafford.	Lichfield.	1516
	Dean and Chapter of Lichfield. See note under Stafford.	Lichfield.	1461
	Peculiar of Alveston and Wasperston.	Lichfield.	1559
	Peculiar of Hampton Lucy.	Lichfield. Worcester.	1593 1712
	Peculiar and Manor Court of Merevale.	Lichfield.	1770
	Prebend of Dean and Cantor of Ufton.	Lichfield.	1799
	Peculiar of Stratford-on-Avon.	Stratford.	1712
	Borough Records of Stratford-on-Avon. See Hist. MSS. Com. Rep. IX, App., pt. i, p. 290.	Muniment Room, Stratford.	1585 to 1701
	Manor Court of Baddesley Clinton.	Birmingham.	1773
	Manor of Balsall Temple.	Birmingham.	1682
	Manor Court of Barston.	Birmingham.	1671
	Prebend of Colwich and Bishops Itchington.	Birmingham.	1684
	Manor Court of Knowle.	Birmingham.	1726
	Manor Court of Packwood.	Birmingham.	1759
	Prebend of Tachbrook. Index of all Birmingham Peculiars printed by Brit. Rec. Soc., vol. vii. See note under Stafford.	Birmingham.	1725
WESTMORELAND.	Consistory of Carlisle.	Carlisle.	1564
	Archdeaconry of Richmond, Deaneries of Kendal and Lonsdale. See note under Lancaster.	Somerset House.	1531
	Manor Court of Ravenstonedale.	Carlisle.	1690
	Manor Court of Temple Sowerby.	Carlisle.	1580
	Registers of Bishops of Carlisle. See note under Cumberland.	Carlisle.	1353
WILTSHIRE.	Consistorial of Sarum.	Somerset House.	1550
	Archidiaconal Court of Sarum.	Somerset House.	~~1500~~ 1528
	Archidiaconal Court of Wilts.	Somerset House.	~~1600~~ 1587
	Dean and Chapter of Sarum. A few wills in Muniments of Dean and Chapter from 1261, in Dioc. Reg. See Hist. MSS. Com. Rep., Var. Colls. I, pp. 343, 375.	Somerset House.	1606
	Peculiar of Dean of Sarum.	Somerset House.	~~1500~~ 1558
	Archidiaconal of Sub Dean of Sarum.	Somerset House.	1610
	Prebend of Castle Combe.	Somerset House.	1669

	Peculiar of Corsham.	Somerset House.	~~1713~~	1712
	Peculiar of Precentor of Sarum.	Somerset House.	1680	
	Peculiar of Treasurer and Prebend of Calne.	Somerset House.	~~1663~~	1610
	Peculiar of Lord Warden of Savernake Forest.	Somerset House.	1617	
	Prebend of Sarum.	Somerset House.	....	
	Dean and Canons of Windsor.	Somerset House.	1668	
	Prebend of Bishopstone.	Somerset House.	1625	
	Prebend of Husborne and Burbage.	Somerset House.	1635	
	Prebend of Chute and Chisenbury.	Somerset House.	~~1607~~	1617
	Prebend of Combe and Harnham.	Somerset House.	~~1687~~	1685
	Prebend of Durnford.	Somerset House.	1634	
	Prebend of Highworth.	Somerset House.	1623	
	Prebend of Netheravon.	Somerset House.	1595	
	Prebend of Wilsford and Woodford.	Somerset House.	~~1615~~	1629
WORCESTER.	Consistorial Episcopal of Worcester.	Worcester.	1451	
	No adequate index exists at Worcester previous to 1493, but this period is covered by the excellent index edited by Mr. E. A. Fry, now printing by the Brit. Rec. Soc., covering 1451–1600, and which will be continued. The Admons are *not indexed* before 1660.			
	Court of Dean and Chapter of Worcester.	Worcester.	1668	
	Court of Rector of Alvechurch.	Worcester.	1718	
	Court of Rector of Bredon.	Worcester.	1717	
	Rector of Evesham.	Worcester.	1528 to 1537	
	Rector of Fladbury.	Worcester.	1721	
	Rector of Hampton Lucy.	Worcester.	1712	
	Earlier wills of this Peculiar from 1593 will be found at Lichfield.			
	Peculiar of Haubury.	Worcester.	1720	
	Rector of Hartlebury.	Worcester.	1720	
	Rector of Ripple.	Worcester.	1721	
	Rector of Tredington.	Worcester.	1717	
	Registers of Bishops of Worcester.	Diocesan Registry.	1268	
	A Vol. of 200 wills, 1544–1553, is in the Bishops Registry at Worcester.			
YORKSHIRE.	Registers of Bishops of York.	Diocesan Registry.	1300	
	Exchequer and Prerogative Court.	York.	1389	
	Vacancy wills will be found in Dean and Chapter (see below).			
	Index has been printed by* Yorks. Arch. Soc., 1389–1627 and 1636–1652, vols. iv, vi, xi, xiv, xix, xxii, xxiv, xxvi, xxviii and xxxii.			

* See note of gaps in this record—Yorks. Arch. Soc., Rec. Ser., vol. vi, App. 2, p. 199.

Consistory and Chancery Court. Wills in litigation in the Inferior Court. An Index, 1660–1724, in Brit. Mus., Add. MS. 29699, fol. 149.	Diocesan Registry.	1311
Dean and Chapter of York. The first vol. of wills of this Court, 1321–1493, is in Muniment Room of Dean and Chapter. See abstracts printed in Surtees Soc., vol. xxvi, 1853, and also selected abstracts of wills in York Courts (1300 to 1551), by J. Raine and J. W. Clay, have been printed under title of Testamenta Eboracensia by Surtees Soc., vols. iv, xxx, xlv, liii, lxxix and cvi.	York.	1321
Archdeaconry of Richmond, Deaneries of Bowbridge, Catterick, and Richmond. Index printed in Northern Genealogist, ii, 209. See also selected abstracts in Harl. MS. 7029 in Brit. Mus.	Somerset House.	1457
Archdeacon of East Riding.	York.	1572
Archdeacon of York.	York.	....
Peculiar of Chancellor of York,		1557
and Prebend of Laughton-en-le-Morthen.	York.	1612
Peculiar of Precentor of York and Prebend of Driffield.	York.	1551
Peculiar of Sub Dean of York.	York.	1559
Peculiar of Succentor of York.	York.	1557
Peculiar of Archbishop in Hexhamshire and Ripon. (Separate calendar for Hexham from 1593.)	York.	1553
Peculiar of the Deanery of York. (Admons and Tuition only, 1538–1660.)	York.	1610
Peculiar of Acomb. (Separate index begins in 1709.)	York.	1504
Manor Court of Aldbrough. (In the Hailstone collection.)	York Minster Library.	1610
Manor Court of Altofts in Normanton. Index printed in Northern Genealogist i, 130.	York.	1629
Peculiar of Bishop of Durham in Allertonshire. Abstracts of early wills (1311 to 1599) from this Court will be found in Surtees Soc., vols. ii and xxxviii. See note under Durham.	Durham.	1666
Peculiar of Alne and Tollerton. (Separate index from 1601.)	York.	1458
Prebend of Ampleforth. (Separate index, 1661.)	York.	1558

Manor Court of Arkingarthdale and New Forest.	[*Unknown*]	1724
See abstracts of wills in this Court in Northern Genealogist, iv, 93, 116; v. 22; vi, 93, *to* M *only*.		
Manor Court of Askham Bryan.	York.	1594
Manor Court of Barnoldswick.	Wakefield.	1660
Index printed in Northern Genealogist, i, 113.		
Manor Court of Beeford or Beeforth.	York.	1561
Manor Court of Silsden.	Wakefield. York.	1587 1767
Index (1547–1737) printed in Northern Genealogist, i, 37, 110.		
Peculiar of Provost of Collegiate Church of Beverly.	York.	1539 to 1552
No wills known to exist in this Court after 1552.		
Prebend of Bilton.	York.	1591
Peculiar of Bishop Wilton.	York.	1531
(Separate index from 1616.)		
Court of Town End in Bolsterton.	Wakefield.	....
Prebend of Bugthorpe.	York.	1554
(Separate index from 1669.)		
Peculiar of South Cave.	York.	1550
Manor Court of Cold Kirby.	[*Unknown*]	....
Peculiar of Craike.	Durham.	1713
Manor Courts of Crossley, Bingley and Pudsey.	Wakefield.	1610
Index printed in Northern Genealogist, i, 33.		
Prebend of Fenton.	York.	1544
(Separate index from 1617.)		
Manor Court of Hinderskelf.	[*Unknown*]	....
Prebend of Holme.	York.	1559
(Separate index from 1663.)		
Peculiar of Howdenshire and Hemingborough.	York.	1555
Manor Court of Huby.	[*Unknown*]	....
Manor Court of Hunsingore.	Somerset House.	1607
Prebend of Husthwaite.	York.	1633
(Separate index, 1661.)		
Honour Court of Knaresborough.	Knaresborough Castle. Somerset House.	1509 1640
The earliest wills in this Court at Somerset House are as stated, but when the wills were sent to the Probate Office, the owners of the Manor retained the earlier rolls beginning with the reign of Henry VIII., and containing many hundreds of wills.		
Abstracts of all wills from Knaresborough Court Rolls, by F. Collins (1509–1604), printed in Surtees Soc., vol. civ, 1902. A second vol. (1605–1660) with Calendars of the wills both at Knaresborough and Somerset House in progress.		

Prebend of Langtoft. (Separate index, 1647.)	York.	1520
Peculiar of Linton-on-Ouse.	York.	1710
Manor Court of Marsden. Index printed in Northern Genealogist, ii, 102, 168.	Wakefield.	1654
Peculiar of Masham and Kirkby Malzeard. (Separate index from 1609.) Index printed (1550 to 1709) in Northern Genealogist, iv, 132; v, 30, 103, 153; vi, 16, 86, *to* R *only*.	York.	1550
	Somerset House.	1572
Manor Court of Warmfield with Heath. Index printed in Northern Genealogist, i, 129.	York.	1642
Peculiar of Archdeacon of York for Mexborough and Ravenfield. (Index from 1686.)	York.	1662
Royal Peculiar of Middleham. (Has 2 wills, 1612 and 1694.) See Camden Soc., xxviii, pp. 19, 96.	Somerset House.	1722
Manor Court of Newton-on-Ouse with Beningborough.	York.	1613
Prebend of North Newbald. (Separate index, 1633.)	York.	1496
Prebend of Osbaldwick and Gate Helmsley. (Separate index, 1631.)	York.	1558
Prebend of Riccall. (Separate index, 1694.)	York.	1550
Peculiar of Impropriator of Salton.	York.	1531
Peculiar of Selby. (Separate index, 1681.)	York.	1555
Manor Court of Shipton with Overton.	York.	1579
Peculiar of Snaith. 1628 to 1715 missing. (Separate index, 1568.)	York.	1525
Prebend of Stillington.	York.	1538
Prebend of Strensall. (Separate index from 1640.)	York.	1538
Manor Court of Temple Newsam. Index printed in Northern Genealogist, i, 34.	Wakefield.	1612
Prebend of Impropriator of Wadworth. (Separate index from 1708.)	York.	1639
Prebend of Warthill. (Separate index from 1681.)	York.	1549
Prebend of Weighton and Shipton. (Separate index from 1660.)	York.	1502
Manor Court of Westerdale.	[*Unknown*]	....
Prebend of Wetwang. (Separate index from 1658.)	York.	1588

Prebend of Wistow. (Separate index from 1617.)	York.	1585
Liber Rubens, or Red Book. Index printed in Northern Genealogist, ii, 181.	Hull.	1309
Corporation of Hull. Some wills in Muniments, *ex teste* A. Gibbons.	Hull.	....

It is believed that other Courts existed, having jurisdiction in Yorkshire, but now unknown.

See index of Yorkshire wills and admons in P. C. C., 1649–1660, by F. Collins, Yorks. Arch. Asso., Rec. Series, vol. i, 1885.

Abstracts of entries in Act Books in Prerogative Court of York, 1679 to 1689, printed in Northern Genealogist, ii, 13, 53, 187; iii, 44, 75, 116, 173; iv, 19, 85.

See also abstracts of Halifax Wills in Yorks. Courts, 1389–1544, by J. W. Clay and E. W. Crossley, Halifax, 1904.

Abstracts of wills in Archdeaconry of Richmond by James Raine, 1442–1579, selections only, Surtees Society, vol. xxvii, 1853.

Testamenta Eboracensia by James Raine and J. W. Clay. Selected Wills from the York Court, 1300–1551, 6 vols. Surtees Society, vols. iv, xxx, xlv,* liii, lxxix, civ.

It should be kept in mind by the searcher that a very great number of wills in all parts of the country, in articles under special names, have been printed in various local magazines, family histories, etc., any attempt at a classification and index of which is hopeless. The enquirer may, however, save himself much useless labor by taking heed of these in the district or under the name in which he is interested.

Errata in Foregoing Table.

Derby.	Dean and Chapter of Lichfield. (See note under Stafford.)	Lichfield.	1461
Devon.	Episcopal Principal Registry. Index to 1799 by British Record Society in progress. (*This note should follow this Court, and* NOT *the* Consistorial Court, *as printed.*)	Exeter.	1559
	Dean and Chapter of Exeter. *For* "Chapter Library," *read* "Chapter Archives."		

* Vol. xlv has the York Marr. Lics., 1374 to 1541.

Having exhausted the wills, and found, let us hope, certain evidence of the parish from which his ancestor came, the searcher should next turn his attention to the Parish Registers to obtain the further details of births, marriages and deaths necessary to fill out his chart. These are nearly always to be found in local custody,* the earliest dating from about 1538, and the clergy are entitled by law to demand a fee of one shilling for the first year seen, and six pence for every subsequent year, of the *entire register* of Baptisms, Marriages and Burials, a fee which, be it said to their credit, they very rarely demand, although some remuneration for their time and trouble, from a nominal sum of a shilling or two to a guinea or more, is usually required, and should be cheerfully paid by the searcher.

In addition to this search fee, if the enquirer demand a certified extract of any entry or entries, for legal use, the clergyman is entitled to demand a further fee of two shillings and six pence for each entry so certified, but this does not apply to any other extracts made by the searcher himself or by the clergyman and *not* certified, and he has no right to insist on any larger sum than that named for the search, or to oblige the searcher to take the certified extracts where they are not desired.† The law on this point is clear and explicit, and any attempt to enforce larger fees should be resisted and an appeal taken to the Bishop of the Diocese, or to the Courts.‡

A valuable Parish Register Abstract has been printed by the British Government,§ showing the dates to which each register extends, and this book should be consulted before going into the country to search, as its evidence of the loss of a certain register will often save the expense of a useless journey. The valuable list of Printed Parish Registers by Dr. Marshall‖ should always be consulted.

The enquirer need not despair, however, even if he find that the earlier years of the parish register have perished, for in the Diocesan Registries are often to be found transcripts, or the copies required by law to be sent yearly to the Bishop of the Diocese in which the parish lay, which frequently restore important parts of lost registers. This law, which was passed under Queen Elizabeth, was unfortunately not always obeyed, and this, together with the shameful negligence as to the care of these documents in many Dioceses, has involved the loss of thousands which were properly sent; but a great deal of valuable material has still been preserved, and should always be most carefully examined. A list of these Transcripts and their places of deposit may be found in Mr. Phillimore's useful little handbook.¶

There are also Non-Conformists' Registers,** but, except those of the French and Quakers, these are not usually early enough to be of value to Americans. These will be found at Somerset House, where they may be

* A few of them, however, turn up in strange and unexpected places, *e.g.*, the British Museum and Public Record Office have several copies

† See case of Steele *vs.* Williams in Court of Exchequer, Jurist xvii, p. 464; Notes and Queries, June, 1853, p. 598; *op. cit.* Burn's Hist. Parish Registers, pp. 244–7.

‡ In only one case, among the hundreds of registers he has searched, has the writer been obliged to make this appeal, with the result that a large sum exacted, before the books were shown, was returned to him at the Bishop's order.

§ Abstract of the Answers and Returns made pursuant to an Act, 11 Geo. IV., for taking an Account of the Population of Great Britain, etc., Vol. ii, Parish Register Abstract, 1831. Printed by the House of Commons, 1833. Index to same in Vol. iii.

‖ A List of Parish Registers, by George W. Marshall, LL.D., Parish Reg. Society, vol. xxx. 1900.

¶ How to Write the History of a Family, by W. P. W. Phillimore, M.A., B.C.L., 1896. Supp., p. 324.

** See Report of Commissioners on Non-Parochial Registers in England and Wales, 1857.

consulted on payment of fees, but verbatim copies of the Quaker Records, beautifully arranged and indexed, are kept at Devonshire House on Bishopsgate Street, London, by the officers of the Society of Friends, and can be examined there for a nominal fee proportioned to the time occupied in the search.*

Marriage Licenses, it need hardly be said, are evidences of the greatest value, and exist in nearly all of the Dioceses in more or less perfect condition. They often furnish a clue to the parish of the long sought ancestor, and should invariably be hunted down and seen whenever they exist. Many of them have been printed, and are so noted in the Table which follows. In important cases of identification it will be well to see the original as well as the published records, for many errors and omissions exist in the latter.

Diocese.	Location.	Date.
Bangor.	Bangor.	....
Bath and Wells.	Wells Diocesan Registry. A few allegations exist 1645 and 1648, then a gap till the restoration 1660. Printed by A. J. Jewers as Supp. to Genealogist, N. S., Vol. xv, 1899 *et seq.*, in progress.	1660
Bedford Archdeaconry.	Lincoln. See note under Lincoln.	1574
Berks Archdeaconry.	Oxford.	1836
Bristol.	Bristol Diocesan Registry. These documents are in a deplorable condition, having been partially burned during the Bristol riots in 1831. A fee of one guinea a day is charged to examine this dust heap.	1610
Bucks Archdeaconry.	Oxford.	1845
Bury.	See Archdeaconry of Sudbury.	1610
Canterbury Archdeaconry.	Canterbury. Canterbury Marriage Licences, by J. M. Cowper, 1st Ser. 1568 to 1618, 1892. Ditto, 2d Ser. 1619 to 1660, 1894. Ditto, 3d Ser. 1661 to 1676, 1896. Ditto, 4th Ser. 1677 to 1700, 1898.	1568
Carlisle.	Carlisle.	1698
Chester.	Chester.	1606
Chichester.	Chichester.	1685
Durham.	Durham.	1664
Ely.	Ely.	1727

* See also Hist. MSS. Com. Rep. III, app. p. 365; Sims' Manual, p. 144; Arber's Pilgrim Fathers, Lond., 1897; and Amsterdam and Leyden records for other information on the Puritans and other Non-Conformists.

EXETER.	Exeter. Marriage Licences of Diocese of Exeter, by J. L. Vivian, 1523 to 1631, interrupted by death of Editor. (Will probably be completed by the Devon and Cornwall Record Soc.)	1523
GLOUCESTER.	Gloucester. Indexed after Nov. 1684.	1637
HEREFORD.	Hereford.	1664
IPSWICH.	See Suffolk Archdeanery.	1613
LICHFIELD.	Lichfield. The records of this Registry are practically inaccessible, the fees being prohibitive.	1660
LINCOLN.	Bishops' Registry and Dean and Chapter Muniment Room, Lincoln. The Early Marriage Dispensations are entered in Episcopal Registers 1280 to 1547. Marriage Bonds and Allegations 1580 to date, except 1650–60. Allegation Books 1598 to 1606 and 1612 to 1628, and fragmentary 1660 to 1690. Abstract of Allegation Books in Registry of Bishop of Lincoln 1598 to 1628, by A. Gibbons, 1888. Early Licences in the Episcopal Registers with later Licences to 1670, by A. Gibbons, in progress.	1280
LLANDAFF.	Llandaff.	16th Cent.
LONDON CONSISTORY.	Diocesan Office, St. Paul's Churchyard. Abstracts of the Allegation Books 1520 to 1828, by J. L. Chester, Harl. Soc., xxv, xxvi, 1887. (*Not exhaustive.*) Extracts from Marriage Licences granted by the Bishop of London 1598 to 1639, by H. F. Waters, 1892, in Essex Institute Hist. Colls., vol. xxviii, Nos. 2 and 3. (*Contains much omitted by Col. Chester.*)	1520
LONDON, VICAR GENERAL.	Dean's Court, 3 Creed Lane, Doctors' Commons. Abstracts of the Allegation Books 1660 to 1679, by J. L. Chester, 1886, Harl. Soc. xxiii. (*Very incomplete.*) Abstracts of the Allegation Books 1660 to 1679, by G. J. Armytage, 1892, Harl. Soc. xxxiii and xxxiv. (*Contain the omissions in Col. Chester's work.*) Abstracts of the Allegation Books 1679 to 1694, by G. J. Armytage, 1890, Harl. Soc. xxx and xxxi. (*Complete for period.*)	1660
LONDON, FACULTY OFFICE.	Knightrider Street. Records missing 1549 to 1567, and 1575 to 1632. Abstracts of Allegation Bonds, by J. L. Chester and G. J. Armytage, 1543 to 1575 (*complete*) and 1632 to 1869 (*extracts only*), 1886, Harl. Soc. xxiv.	1543

	Calendar of Marriage Licences issued by the Faculty Office 1632 to 1714, by G. E. Cokayne, Brit. Record Soc., in progress.	
LONDON, DEAN AND CHAPTER OF WESTMINSTER.	Dean and Chapter Act Books, Somerset House. Allegations of Marriage Licences by Dean and Chapter of Westminster 1558 to 1699, by J. L. Chester, 1886, Harl. Soc. xxiii. (*Complete*).	1558

London Marriage Licences, by Joseph Foster, 1520 to 1869, pub. by B. Quaritch, London, 1888. (This vol. contains Col. J. L. Chester's Abstracts, as above, but arranged as a whole in alphabetical order and cross indexed.)

NORWICH.	Norwich.	1563
NOTTINGHAM ARCHDEANERY.	Nottingham.	1594
OXFORD.	Oxford.	1634
PETERBOROUGH.	Peterborough.	1609
ROCHESTER ARCHDEANERY.	Rochester.	1635
SARUM.	Salisbury Cathedral Close.	1615
ST. ASAPH.	St. Asaph, Flintshire.	1675
ST. DAVIDS.	St. Davids, Pembroke.	1613
SUDBURY ARCHDEACONRY.	Bury St. Edmunds Probate Court.	1610
SUFFOLK ARCHDEANERY.	Ipswich Probate Court. Marriage Licences of the Archdeanery of Suffolk 1613 to 1674, by F. A. Crisp, 1903. Marriage Licence Bonds in the Suffolk Archdeaconry Registry at Ipswich 1663 to 1750, by F. A. Crisp, 1900.	1613
SURREY ARCHDEACONRY.	See Faculty Office, London, and Winchester.	1674
WELLS.	See Bath and Wells.	1645
WINCHESTER.	Winchester. Hampshire Allegations for Marriage Licences by the Bishop of Winchester 1689 to 1837, 2 vols., by W. J. C. Moens, 1893.	1689
WORCESTER.	Worcester. A few (8) scattered entries 1446 to 1541. Index 1663 to 1720. Marriage Licences in the Diocesan Registry at Worcester 1446 to 1725, by T. P. Wadley, in Genealogist, vi, 177 *et seq.*, 1882.	1579
YORK.	York. The originals of the Marriage Licences at York, with the exception of the three years noted, have *totally disappeared!*	1618–1620

A transcript of them, 1567 to 1628, by W. Paver,* is in the British Museum, Add. MS. 29667. This has been edited by C. B. Norcliff and printed in Yorkshire Arch. and Topog. Journal, 1882, vol. vii, pt. xxviii, page 289, *et seq.*, to 1893, pt. xlvi, page 155. No other trace of these valuable documents exists.

York Marriage Licences, 1374 to 1531, printed in Surtees Society, vol. xlv, by James Raine and J. W. Clay.

NOTE.—The writer is aware that the above Table is far from perfect, and will be greatly obliged for any additions to, or corrections of, the data given.

The Probate Registers and the Vital Records, which we have been considering heretofore, constitute the more evident and better known sources of information in England as well as in America; but we will suppose that the searcher has failed to build his pedigree to his satisfaction on these lines, and he will naturally turn next to the Public Record Office, in Fetter Lane, Fleet Street, London.

In this splendid pile of buildings, erected expressly for their safe housing, the English Government has gathered together, from a score of ancient and insecure depositories, the Archives of the Nation for a thousand years, and the result is the finest collection of historical and genealogical manuscripts in the world, of which all the years of a long lifetime would fail to even brush over a tithe of the contents.

The searcher's only course, before such a bewildering mass of material, is to select a certain class or classes of documents, and work these as thoroughly as his time and patience will allow. Search here is absolutely free, and the officials and attendants courteous and helpful to all serious enquirers, but the vast mass of matter to be dealt with makes progress slow at the best.

I may name five classes of documents in this office as those from which I have myself obtained the best results, and which I would recommend to the searcher. These are, in the order named:

Chancery Proceedings,
Lay Subsidies,
Feet of Fines,
Inquisitions Post Mortem,
Wards and Liveries.

The Court of Chancery is a court of equity, the records of which date from the reign of Richard II., and in which, at one time or another, probably every family in England has appeared. Frequently the evidence given in a single document is sufficient to construct the pedigree of several generations. The great mass of these manuscripts no doubt deters many from their examination, but I think few have undertaken a careful search of them who have not been abundantly rewarded. The Briefs of early proceedings, Richard II. to Philip and Mary,† and of the reign of Queen Elizabeth,‡ have been printed, (the latter somewhat imperfectly,) by the Government, but can-

* William Pavar, born 1802, died 1871, was Registrar of Births, Marriages and Deaths at York. He seems to have been a most industrious but unscrupulous antiquary. His collections in the British Museum are in Add. MSS. 29644 to 29703.

† Vol. I, to *circa* 1483, pub. 1901.

‡ Pub. in 3 vols., 1827-32.

not be implicitly depended upon. The calendars of the Bills and Answers of the reign of Charles I. have also been printed.* These are roughly arranged by Plaintiffs, under their respective letters, but must be searched throughout for the Defendants. The period of James I. has been commenced, in the Genealogist, but is still unfinished.† The still more interesting period of the Six Clerks Books "Ante 1714", has also been begun, but only one volume, "Reynardson," to the letter "K," has been issued.‡ The introduction to this last gives a most excellent idea of the scope and methods of this Court, and to it the reader is referred, as also to an article on the same subject in the Genealogist.§

Other Court rolls are also of great value, and among them may be named the De Banco, Coram Rege, Star Chamber, Common Pleas, etc., but relatively few of the cases tried in these Courts possess the high genealogical value of those in the Court of Chancery.

The Lay Subsidies consist of tax levies for grants made to the King by Parliament, and are of great use as giving complete lists of the better class of inhabitants at short given periods, and for locating persons in certain parishes they are invaluable. They are grouped by counties, well indexed and readily consulted. The Hearth Tax is too late for most of our work, dating from 1666 only. The Ship Money Returns for the Counties of Essex and Suffolk are early and valuable.‖

The Pedes Finium, or Feet of Fines, and the Fines and Recoveries, constitute another most valuable class of documents, furnishing the only records approximating our own registration of deeds, which, incredible as it may seem, was unknown to England of the 17th Century, and now only exists partially and from the time of Queen Anne, in the counties of Middlesex and York. These papers represent the Final Concord of a friendly suit for the purchase and sale of a piece of property. The indices, in 99 vols., are chronological only, but with marginal notes of the county, which aid somewhat in the search. It is always a tedious one, and too often without reward, but not, in important cases, to be neglected.¶

The Inquisitions Post Mortem were enquiries held upon the decease of any tenant holding lands "In Capite" or directly from the King. They constitute a very valuable class of records, dating from the time of Henry III., are admirably preserved, well indexed, and easily consulted. There are several series of these : the Chancery, Exchequer, Lancaster, and Wards and Liveries, all of which should be seen.

The Court of Wards and Liveries, which was an outgrowth of the last named Inquisitions, is among the least known, at least to our American enquirers, of the more familiar documents in the Record Office. Established in the reign of Henry VIII., it passed out of existence at the time of the Civil War, but in the brief period which it covers, its documents are full of valuable information bearing in all cases directly upon family history.**

The lists of persons taking ship for America have been thoroughly worked out and printed by Drake and Hotton,†† and little or nothing remains to

* British Record Society, vols. ii, v, vi, and xiv, 1889–96.

† Genealogist, vol. iv, p. 79 *et seq.*

‡ British Record Society, vol. xxix, 1903.

§ Vol. iv, N. S., p. 71.

‖ See Harl. MS. 7540, 2, for Suff. 1639, now pub. by Suffolk Inst. of Arch.

¶ See list of printed calendars and abstracts in W. Rye's Record Searching, 1888, p. 40, and Lansdown MSS. 306, 307 and 308, at the British Museum.

** See index of Deeds in this Court, in Deputy Keeper of Pub. Rec's, Rept. VI, app. ii, No. 1.

†† Founders of New England, by S. G. Drake, 1860; Original Lists of Emigrants, by J. C. Hotton, 1874.

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add to their discovery, although fresh lists are liable to be found in the Record Office at any time, in the course of assortment, and it may be well always to make enquiry of the officers there whenever the searcher finds himself in London.*

The Herald's Visitations, made from 1530 to 1683, constitute a unique class of evidences as to the armigerous families of England, to some of which our early emigrants belonged, having been younger sons of the county families, seeking to make their fortunes beyond the seas. Many of these have been printed, a very excellent list of which will be found in Phillimore's book, before referred to.† It should be borne in mind, however, in the consultation of this list, that while the reference to the original is usually that in the Heralds College, other copies will be found of almost all of these in the British Museum, Bodleian, Ashmolean, and other Libraries, where may also be found many of those which are still unpublished.‡ These should be carefully examined, and, where duplicate copies exist, they should be collated for the errors and omissions which are only too frequent.

The British Museum, to which I have just referred, forms a happy hunting ground for the genealogical enquirer, but the searcher will probably have exhausted most printed works before going abroad, and will therefore pass at once to the Manuscript Room, where he will find a priceless collection of unpublished material, comprising, besides the Visitations already referred to, numberless collections of antiquaries, and (be it not forgotten) many Parish Registers and Transcripts which have broken adrift from their proper moorings and finally found a safe harbor here. The officials of the Museum are most helpful, and will lend every assistance to the enquirer in searching the complicated and difficult catalogues. Access to the Museum is absolutely free, but the applicant must be endorsed by some London householder, *not an hotel or boarding-house keeper*, a fact which should be borne in mind and planned for, before going abroad. For those who are unable to procure a card at the British Museum, and require to consult books of reference while in London, the Guildhall Library, which is absolutely free, will be found useful.

The College of Arms, or Heralds College as it is usually called, is supported entirely by fees, unlike all the other English Offices, and the enquirer will often find his purse heavily taxed at this point; but many documents are to be found nowhere else. A personal introduction to some officer of the College is advised when it can be procured.

Another class of records, too generally neglected, are the Archives of the different towns, cities, and guilds, in which the writer has made some of his most important discoveries. Among these the Apprentice and Burgess Books are the most valuable, the age, parentage, and place of origin of the apprentice being given in nearly all cases. These records at Bristol date from 1532,§ at Southampton from 1609, Ipswich from 1538, etc.

Even more important, when they exist, are the Manor Court rolls, with the Courts Baron and Leet, which are full of information regarding the families of the tenants of the Manors, and very frequently contain wills as well. A few of these are in the Record Office and at the British

* See also Calendar of Col State Papers, 1574 to 1660, pub. 1860.

† *Op. cit.* Supp. pp. 287–292.

‡ For a much more detailed list of these MSS., giving locations of duplicates, see Sims' Manual for the Genealogist (1856), p. 161.

§ See the writer's article on Bristol Apprentice Books, in REGISTER, vol. lv, p. 331, 1901.

Museum, but the greater number remain in the custody of the present owners of the manors, and are in consequence most difficult of access, being guarded with absurdly jealous care, amounting to panic in many cases, when an attempt is made to see them, the average Briton finding it inconceivable that anyone should go to such trouble and expense without some sinister motive as to the ownership of his broad acres and quaint old Manor House. Often, however, a personal introduction or tactful persuasion in an interview (there is little hope of accomplishing anything by letter), will obtain permission for examination, of which full advantage should be taken whenever possible.

Also of importance are the Quarter Sessions and the local Market Courts, or Courts of Pie Powder (i.e. *Pied Poudré*, or Dusty Foot), where trivial causes were tried before the local justice, the litigants coming directly from their daily avocations (whence the name), and these records often yield valuable family evidences.

As the Welsh Records, prior to the 16th century and even later, were written in the vernacular, it will be necessary, for those whose tree grew from a Cymric root, to secure the services of some native antiquary to whom the Welsh is still a living language and whose knowledge of the local families and traditions will be nearly as great an assistance as his linguistic abilities.

Most of the counties are represented by local Record or Archæological Societies, the indices of whose publications will always repay examination for the district in which the special quest is located. They will be found in every large library in England or America.

A word may be in order as to the preparation of the searcher himself for his task. I should strongly advise a few months careful study of the ancient handwritings, particularly those of the 16th and 17th centuries, for which Wright's Court Hand Restored, (9th edition, 1879,) may be cited as an invaluable text book. Some knowledge of Latin is a *sine qua non*, as a large proportion of the records are written in that language, and it should be remembered that it is *not* the language of Cicero and Virgil, but the debased monkish tongue of the middle ages that we have to deal with. A set of Du Cange's Dictionary (last edition, 1884–8, in 10 vols.) will prove an invaluable aid in the translation of this, while a thorough mastery of the more usual forms of abbreviation is essential to success.

Ink is forbidden in all of the public offices except the British Museum, so the searcher should provide himself with pencils and note books; a good reading glass is important, tracing paper or cloth to be used for signatures where permitted, "heel ball" and soft white paper for taking rubbings of monumental brasses, tombstones, etc. For very rough and weather-worn stones still thinner paper, and soot bag will often give a good copy where the "heel ball" is useless. For country expeditions, and indeed for desk work also, the half-inch reduced ordinance maps will be found invaluable; they are mounted on linen, folded for the pocket, and sold at a very low price. The whole of England and Wales is covered by sixty-two of these maps, from which selections can be made of the localities to be explored. If we add perseverance and an unwearied stock of patience to these essentials, the beginner will find himself well equipped to attack the problem of his ancestry in the ancient home of our race, with every prospect of success.

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